



Workforce Development Board Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, June 11, 2020

WebEx

Attendance

Members Present		Members Absent		Guests/ Presenters
Will Anderson	Paula Miller	Mike Adelstein	Laura Riley	County Executive John Olszewski, Jr.
Sheldon Caplis	Mark Millsbaugh	Cynthia Etheridge	Greg Simmons	Mike DiGiacomo
Al Clinedinst	Mike Netzer	Ryan Imbriale	Nicole Thompson	Bryce Freedman
Daniel Freedman	Beth Norton	Matt Jackson		Kristin King
Doug Handy	Debbie Rowe			Mike Lawrence
Bob Holsey	Jim Russell			
Mary Hough	Louise Slezak			
Brent Howard	Nick Stewart			
Daraius Irani	Aaron Tomarchio			
Jeff Jenkins	Tina Williams-Koroma			
Curt Jordan	Michelle Wright			
Patti Madigan				
Edna Manuud				
Staff				
		Kevin Armstrong	Mary Manzoni	Anthony Smith
		Renee Barnes	Howard Marshall	Tracy Tyler
		Carol Brooks	Neishall Schuyler	Britney Victorine

Call to order

Will Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Will thanked members for participating in the meeting.

Board Business – voting members

Anna-Maria Palmer, Board Chair

Mary Manzoni, Senior Manager Workforce Development

Carol Brooks, Senior Workforce Analyst

- Board members present voted unanimously to approve the April minutes as official Board documents.
- Anna-Maria acknowledged and thanked exiting board members Mike Adelstein, Barnett Carroll, Daniel Freedman, Beth Norton, Michelle Wright, Edna Manuud, Al Clinedinst, Daraius Irani and Greg Simmons.
- Board voted to extend the terms of service of both the Board Chair and the Board Vice-Chair for one additional two year term, effective immediately. Board Chair and Vice-Chair disconnected from the call during the voting process.
- Carol Brooks reviewed the new Granicus system with the Board. All Board appointments and activities will be managed through this new system.

Update on the County Economy

Will Anderson, Director, DEWD

Will reported that the unemployment rate for Baltimore County is 10.8%. The most heavily impacted industries affected by COVID-19 are leisure and hospitality, trade, transportation and utilities, healthcare and social assistance and professional and health services.

Q&A with County Executive Johnny Olszewski, Jr.

County Executive Johnny Olszewski, Jr.

County Executive Olszewski thanked the Board for their continued service and thanked the exiting members for their term(s). The County Executive fielded several questions from Board members.

Q: What do you want to get accomplished with respect to our workforce system by the end of your first term and how do you measure success in this regard?

A: Part of the challenge is trying to figure out what our new baseline is going to be. Understanding that there have been forgotten parts of our economy for too long, making sure that as we sort of build out a workforce system that it serves all of our residents. How do we let the data inform our decisions about where we are both from that baseline perspective but also where we want to be and where we have to go?

Q: What does it look like for Baltimore County Government to directly support recovery effort and work with businesses to help them recover? What is the plan in addition to the small business grants and the restaurant seating?

A: The best thing we did was listen to the business community, where are the gaps and what do you need government to do to fill those gaps? We're here to listen and find out what we should be doing with our dollars while also leveraging other supports.

Q: What is your vision for ensuring equity in Baltimore County and how are handling/managing the social justice and emotions during this time. You seem to have diversified your cabinet and how is that trickling down?

A: The more diverse voices we have at the table the better the decisions are because you're seeing the whole picture. It is important that we have different genders, races, religions, ages and political perspectives at the table. They make the decisions better, more sustainable and more equitable. But we also need to be measuring the workforce itself. We also have to do a better job of our hiring and part of that is measuring, reporting and holding ourselves accountable. We are looking at our decisions through the equity lens in all that we do.

Q: Due to the fiscal impact of the FY21 budget, where will funds come from to stand up innovative programming and how will we as a County adapt our financial spending?

A: This is where data driven decision making has become critical. Now that we have a stat program we can move more towards performance based and outcome budgeting. It's not just how much but are we delivering the result for what we are putting forward? We are going to go through the County budget and school system budget to see if we can do things more efficiently.

Report on Workforce System Updates

Mike Lawrence, One Stop Operator

Howard Marshall, WIOA Operations Manager

- Mike Lawrence informed the Board that 5,070 people had entered and left our system in the past year. 95% of those exits stay and live in Baltimore County. The greatest impacted (#'s served and wages earned) were those in zip codes 21236, 21030, 21228 and 21093.
- April – present, Career Centers have had 5,696 email and telephone customer interactions. Most services have been surrounding Re-employment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) which is designed to help UI claimants return to work faster. Three virtual workshops have been launched: resume writing, LinkedIn and navigating the MD Workforce Exchange.

Youth Updates

Kevin Armstrong, Manager of Youth Services

The summer youth program will offer structured and substantial services through a hybrid of virtual training through an online platform and on-site placements with County government, community employers and non-profit organizations. Youth will have professional development and labor market industry training.

Board Member Updates

- Mark Millspaugh shared an Eviction Prevention Program announced this week related to people who experience job loss or income reductions due to COVID.
- Tina Williams-Koroma announced that TCecure has launched a new training portal, cyber security trainings are free.
- Daniel Freedman announced that BurnAlong has received \$4 million investment and have hired 5 new people. Welcoming new clients including private companies, universities and schools as they prepare for full return.
- Edna Mannud reminded the Board that McCormick is still hiring.

Closing Remarks

Next Workforce Development Board meeting has been scheduled for September 10, 2020 via WebEx.